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Bikers flock to ride in the 26th Sea Gull Century

BY SHANNON WILEY

News Editor

@TheShannonWiley

The 26th annual Sea Gull Century bike ride brought 6,200 riders from all across the country to Salisbury University on Saturday.

The event began between 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. in the morning when riders started pedaling on three separate courses. The century offered two 100 mile rides, one through Assateague Island and the other through Snow Hill, Maryland and a 65 mile metric ride through Princess Anne in Somerset County.

Sea Gull Century attracted citizens from 39 other states and people of all ages with various reasons for participating.

Tom Allen of Wisconsin rode this year in honor of his late father, Terry Allen, who had ridden in 2011 and 2012 and the husband of SU Provost and Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs Diane Allen.

Tom's last promise to his father was that he would ride Terry's 20-year-old bike across the finish line one more time.

"Dad was always a competitive athlete, even in his 60's," Allen said. "He was above and beyond fit his whole life. He could just turn and turn and turn. It is that old farmer thing."

When Tom fulfilled his promise to his father, he wore Terry's jersey, helmet and rider No. 905, which Terry wore as he completed his metric century in 2012.

"The only thing I cannot wear is his shoes," Tom said. "He had little feet, for his height."

Tom said Terry never understood that mountain bike racing is an individual sport and that he would talk to riders near him for the entirety of the race and even once broke the rules of one race to stop and help a participant fix a broken bike.

"That was him," Tom added, "friendly and helpful to everyone he met."

Jason Swanson of Hawaii has now ridden in the century seven times, including the year that it was founded in 1989 when he lived in Salisbury. This year Swanson came back to ride with his brother who is participating for the first time and friends still residing in the area.

Swanson does not participate in many organized bike rides, besides riding around his Hawaiian island O'ahu, but he said that Sea Gull Century is one of his favorites.

"I love the ride and the camaraderie with the riders," Swanson said. "It is such a great event for the community and the university."

Beki Watson of Los Angeles, California has ridden in the Century almost every year since 1993, when she moved to the D.C. area.

"It was a fun way to do something annually," she said.

Watson said she enjoys participating in this ride because the SU community that volunteers to help is extremely welcoming, the riders are relaxed and because of the Beer Garden at the end for the riders.



Brittany Bursa photo

Riders, to begin their tour, rode through the tunnel on mountain, tandem, recumbent and cruise bikes through either a 100 mile course or a 65 mile course.

This year she is riding with her boyfriend from Los Angeles who has never ridden in the century before.

Julie Williams and Louie Daza of upstate New York have never lived in Maryland, but heard about the ride from friends 15 years ago and have been participating ever since. This year, they attended with nearly 20 members of the Orange County Bicycle Club of New York.

"This is probably the most adrenaline-packed ride that I have ever been on because of the amount of riders," Williams said. "This is a premier event for me, and the whole East Coast."

SU Education Specialties Program Management Specialist Claire Williams has participated in the ride every year since its inception.

Williams rides in about 35 centuries a summer across the country, although this year she rode in closer to 4 events. This summer she also biked across the country from San Francisco, California to Port Smith, New Hampshire covering 3,900 miles in 47 days.

However, the Sea Gull Century ride, she says, is still her favorite.

"I guess I'm prejudiced because it is local, but it's extremely well organized and it's such a pretty ride," Williams said. "It's an area that I really love."

Williams rides with a bike club made up of SU staff.

"The goal is to finish strong and together as a group," she said. "To me it is a stress reliever."



Brittany Bursa photo

Although many riders came with their own gear and equipment, bike rentals were available and vendors sold jackets, shoes, helmets, sunglasses and more in Magg's Gym the day before and the day of the tour.

Getting on the bike, you just forget everything. It has always been my passion."

SU students also rode, including Junior Jack

Cambre, senior Sean Dillon and sophomore Ryan Dillon, who all rode with members of

See CENTURY on Pg 2

Salisbury stays on track with USM graduation gap goals

BY JACOB TROXELL

Editor-in-Chief

@jtrox3

The University System of Maryland schools have shown mixed results improving the gap between the graduation rates of minorities, low-income students and overall graduations rates.

The USM progress report released earlier this month showed that only four schools — The University of Maryland College Park, The University of Maryland Baltimore County, Towson University and Salisbury University — are improving graduation rate gaps and have

overall rates above the USM average of 62 percent in 2013.

The most recent graduation rate data in the report is from the year 2013.

In terms of overall six-year graduation rates from students entering college in 2007 and finishing in 2013, SU is second in the state (67 percent) behind UMCP (84 percent) but had only 53 percent African American and 45 percent of Hispanic students graduate that span, fourth in the state behind Towson and UMBC.

SU Vice President of Student Affairs Dane Foust said the reason for this may be that there are less Hispanic students at SU and a

small amount of students could drop that number substantially. However, he added that SU is close to improving those numbers.

Despite this dip in minority graduation rates, SU is on track to bounce back in 2015 with higher minority graduation rates. SU has higher second, third, fourth and fifth year retention rates in these categories for the 2009 cohort, ending in the Spring of 2015.

"We are strategic in our thinking in how to assist students academically," Foust said. "We have faculty and staff committed to student success and are willing to go the extra mile to make that happen."

Foust also credited programs like TRiO,

which helps first generation college students achieve their academic goals, Living Learning Communities, Supplemental Instruction, the Sophomore Residency Program and Powerful Connections for SU's higher-than-average graduation rates.

"Having some of our sophomores go off campus is too early for them," Foust said. "During their second year they have more structure and help now if they need it."

"As a first generation college student I should have gone to programs like (Powerful Connections) a lot earlier in my college career," Foust said. "I was on my own and my

See GRADUATION on Pg 2

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CENTURY

Continued from PAGE 1

their families.

"I am doing this purely for the fun. I have never ridden 100 miles before so I am looking forward to it," Cambre said.

The event also welcomed a wide variety of ages, with the youngest rider being 8-year-old Sarah Deal and the oldest being 84-year-old David Sergeant of Pennsylvania.

Although most people rode mountain bikes, others rode recumbent bikes, tandem bikes or cruisers. In the past, people have also ridden

roller skates or unicycles.

Money raised by the event is normally about 200,000 dollars, and is split, 60 percent going to the SU community and 40 percent going to the Salisbury community. On campus, the money goes to scholarships, faculty grants, benches, bike racks, athletic equipment and more.

Students of SU who were not riding got involved through clubs, sports and academics. Lifeguards helped out at the Magg's gym pool

so that riders could swim, the Honors Student Association helped to direct riders, Alpha Sigma Phi fraternity set up chairs and helped organize parking lots and Athletic Training majors assisted as first responders.

"The Salisbury students do such a great job," Williams said. "They are so great and their energy and spirit is awesome. That is why I keep coming back."

In addition to the Beer Garden and pool access, riders also had access to a massage table.

Food was provided, an application was developed by SU students and faculty to track progress, location, speed and nearby rest stops, shop through vendors in Maggs Gym and route pit stops were available holding more than just water.

"The last pit stop is the best," Diaz said. "They have ice cream and pies and other things. We may actually stop there first so that we get the good pies."

GRADUATION

Continued from PAGE 1

Salisbury University Six-Year Graduation Rates

Fall Cohort First-Time Full Time	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
6-Year Graduation	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
SU's Total 6-Year Graduation Rate	69	66	70	67	67	67
SU's African American Students 6-Year Graduation Rate	57	62	53	60	66	54
SU's Hispanic Students 6-Year Graduation Rate	74	64	70	60	43	45
SU's Low-Income (Pell) Students 6-Year Graduation Rate	54	59	63	62	62	64

Samantha Breakey graphic

SU's graduation percentages over the years are the second best in the state. This does not include this year's retention rates, which expect to boost minority graduation rates in the 2009 cohort. The full progress report is available on the USM website.

parents had never been through (the college) experience."

In November 2007, the USM set a goal to cut the six-year graduation rate gap in half by 2015 and to fully eliminate it by 2020.

Their goal is to have 55 percent of Maryland's population 25 and older to have a college degree and for more college graduates to enter the workforce, ultimately supporting and sustaining Maryland's economy.

SU has developed successful programs over the years that may help in achieving this goal.

A Course Director at Powerful Connections and Director of Multicultural and International Student Services, Vaughn White has welcomed and advised ethnically diverse students for over 15 years at SU and is a large part of SU's high retention and graduation rates. White said SU's success is because of the way they are able to connect with their students.

"SU does a great job of nurturing its students from the beginning," White said. "From freshman to sophomore year, students are deciding if (college) is good for them and are taking liberal arts classes. That second year they really start focusing on their major and if students get to that point we definitely have got them here."

SU is also on pace to have a record number of low-income students graduate in the 2009 cohort, with third and fourth-year retention rates higher than ever.

A Learning Specialist for TRiO, Ceaira Revels works with numerous low-income students at SU and guides them through appropriate advising, tutoring and other educational programs that SU offers.

"Most of our student's parents haven't gone to college. There is no map for college," Revels said. "Some students don't like to ask for help but once they get hooked up with a mentor here it helps them."

According to the USM report, SU has graduated over 60 percent of low-income students from 2010-2013. No other school in the USM other than UMCP has been able to accomplish this.

"These programs have a tremendous impact," White said. "Before we had these programs in schools, the expectation in my community and my church was that you took college prep courses, graduated college, get that education and give back to the community."

The other eight schools in the USM, Bowie State University, Coppin State University, Frostburg State University, University of Baltimore, University of Maryland Baltimore, University of Maryland Eastern Shore and University of Maryland University College, are working on increasing overall graduation rates up to the USM average by implementing improved assessments for base-level mathematics and English courses, providing educational support for at-risk students, creating vibrant learning communities and increasing financial support.

The class that began this fall will be the final group measured in six-year graduation rates, ending in 2020, so time will tell if this group will meet the expectations the USM set in 2007.

The complete institutional reports are available on the USM website.

Redistricting gives Salisbury representation in city council

BY SAMEUL STEVENS

Staff Writer

The Salisbury City Council passed a plan to redistrict the city after a 3-2 vote, increasing city council districts from two to five and in doing so Salisbury University effectively gained a district, meaning that students could vote after the thirty day residency requirement.

Councilman Tim Spies opposed the plan to change the districting, saying university students are not "true" residents of the city.

Spies explained that his "no" vote was based on special interest groups controlling city elections.

"Even though the district divisions purpose is to make the playing field level for minorities, I fear that the (well-known) concept of divide and conquer will follow," he said.

Spies also said his disagreement with the plan is not based on the presence of SU as a significant bloc of voters, but on the overall capacity for outside actors playing a role in city elections.

Spies specifically mentioned the political clout of Salisbury's landlords.

"In the 2011 elections, fully two thirds of the candidates were mainly funded by landlord dollars, candidates who appeared from the woodwork, never before engaging in city politics," Spies said.

The move from two large districts to five smaller districts may remedy the councilman's fears of divide and conquer, but that will only be tested with the 2015 municipal elections.

City districting was last changed in 2012 after demographic shifts noted in the 2010 US Census.

Currently, District One is an African American majority with two representatives, while the rest of the city is in District Two with three representatives.

The plan was intended to guarantee at least two minority representatives on the city council to better represent the interests of District One voters. The new districts will have roughly equal numbers, with at least 50 percent of the population minorities.

The Maryland chapters of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and the National Association for the Advancements of Colored People supported the 2012 redistricting based on its ability to provide minority representation in the city, according to a letter sent from the ACLU to the Salisbury City Council in April 2012. The letter also states single-member, at large districts limit minority representation in municipal districts, owing to "vote dilution" from the at-large system, something intended to be remedied by the new districting scheme.

Mayor Jim Ireton said on his website, "Neighborhoods such as Doverdale, Princeton Homes, Wicomico Village and Moss Hill have become a melting pot of diversity...With time and these new election lines, that diversity will be represented on the Salisbury City Council."

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As the date approaches, visit the Web for details on speakers and topics: www.salisbury.edu/ResearchDay

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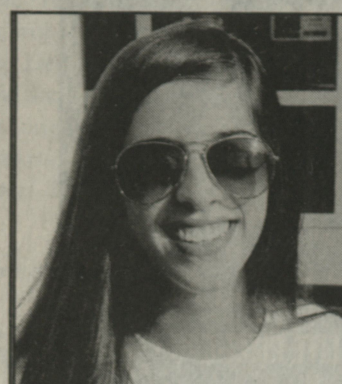
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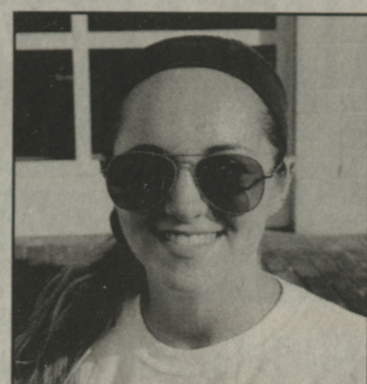
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Overheard: Would you register to vote for Salisbury County Council through Gullnet?



"I'm not sure, but probably not" - Jackie DeLuise, sophomore



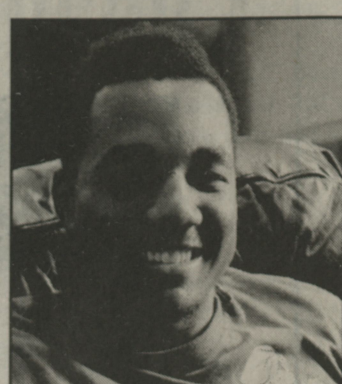
I don't know much about the council, but I might register to vote if I happened to see something about it." - Rachael Vallone, sophomore



"Sure, I probably would just be able to vote." - Carolina Yates, freshman



"I would like to vote, so I would register." - Sebastian Patellis, freshman



"Yes, I think I would register." - Shane Gaines, sophomore

The Flyer

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The Flyer strives for accuracy and corrects its errors immediately. If you believe The Flyer has printed a factual error, please email us.

Waltzing around Holloway



BY JAMIE POTTER
Staff Writer

It's no secret our generation cannot dance.

There are the exceptions of course, shout out to Salisbury University's Dance Company and the Untouchables, but as for the rest of us, all we really know what to do is . . . grind.

Go to any party, or any dance, and that is what you will see. It's definitely not the type of couples dancing you'd want to do in front of your grandmother. It's an overly sexualized dance that strictly pleases the guy involved, but it's what we learned from the media and sadly this is what we do.

We're not all to blame. Learning to dance with another was

not a priority when we grew up as it used to be a couple decades ago. At college parties there isn't much of a priority, but one day I'm sure we'll all wish we knew a couple steps to at least one type of dance. You'll at least need to know the waltz at your wedding! Luckily you can learn! Last Monday in response to an email from the Cultural Affairs I attended the ballroom dance class. It was only an hour long but in that time we learned to waltz in place and to do the traveling waltz.

The instructor started class by bringing the boys, or anyone interested in learning how to lead, up first. Their steps were one step forward, one step to the side, together, one step back, one step to the side, together and repeat.

After a couple minutes of practicing, she brought the girls up, or anyone interested in following, and taught the exact opposite steps; one step backwards, to the side together, then one step forward, to the side and together.

The couples were paired and she positioned our upper body. The follower's hand was to be on the leader's shoulder and their

other hand lightly wrapped around the leader's hand. Elbows were to stick out.

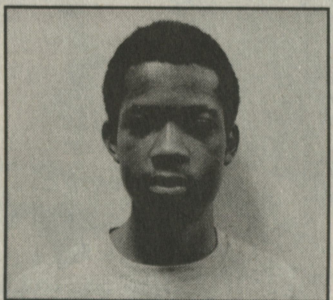
The waltz is an interesting dance as everything happening in the upper body is very stiff while everything happening below the waist should flow.

Another unique factor is that it's in 3-3. Music was played as we floated around the room. Everyone got a hold of it pretty quick and seemed to enjoy it. Even my boyfriend I'd dragged along was glad we came.

There was a diverse group of people eager to learn, but I still think it could use more college students since most of the appearances were from middle aged persons to senior citizens.

It's an opportunity one doesn't get very often: to learn to dance for free. There are four more series to come that I suggest students take advantage of. One day you may wish you knew how to do more than move your hips onto somebody else or as a guy, knew more than just stand and receive those hips. I know I personally like a spin or dip every once and a while to switch it up.

You have the right to remain sexy



BY EMMANUEL ATUFU
Staff Writer

"She can rob me any day!"

That's the response to Stephanie Beaudoin, the "World's Sexiest Criminal."

According to the Montreal Journal, Beaudoin, a 21-year-old nursing student from Victoriaville, Canada is facing 114 charges for 42 alleged break-ins, with some of those charges being illegal possession and storage of firearms.

Instead of being shamed and ridiculed for being a criminal, she is being adored. Why? Because she's hot. Since when did our society start glorifying criminals?

Let's reiterate, Beaudoin is facing 114 charges for 42 alleged break-ins. Think about that for a second. This girl must have a real problem if she's charged with all those home break-ins. Forget the fact that she's irresistibly beautiful for a moment. No one in their right mind robs 42 homes. That fact that she became a Facebook sensation and people are knowingly calling her a "hot felon" is the real problem.

In the words of Peter Griffin, "But where are those good old fashion values on which we used to rely?" And if you're still reading this article, give me a second, I'm trying to find where society hid its morals.

To make matters worse, the

media has taken part in the celebration of criminals. Headlines for stories of Beaudoin read "World's Sexiest Criminal" or "World's Hottest Crook." They are celebrating and praising her for being bad. But hold your horses, Ralph Lauren, it gets better.

Herobuilder.com, a Connecticut-based company, has created an action figure of Stephanie Beaudoin headlining it "Oh Canada!!! The World's Sexiest Criminal Action Figure" and are selling it for thirty bucks. Go figure!

Ms. Beaudoin isn't the only crook being celebrated lately. Earlier this year, Jeremy Meeks, a 30 year old gangster from Stockton, California was arrested by the Stockton Police Department on several weapons charges and one gang charge.

The police department then posted a picture of his Hollywood-esque mugshot on their Facebook page and the rest was history.

Social media and women everywhere were head over heels for this crook who's been in constant trouble with the law since 2002. His mugshot has been used by several companies to advertise their products and multiple modeling agencies are offering him modeling contracts.

"Free Jeremy Meeks. Free Jeremy Meeks."

Hold on to your panties ladies, and put away those pitchforks guys, you might get your wish. Mr. Steal Your Girl, I mean, Mr. Meeks might be freed sooner than we thought. The Facebook page for Meeks has garnered 200,000 "likes" and has helped raise nearly five grand for a "Free Jeremy Meeks" fund that's suppose to help the gangbanger

complete his 1.1 million dollar bail, according to the New York Daily News. This is the same guy being called by Stockton Police as "one of the most violent criminal in the Stockton area" and people want to free him?

A few days ago, Angela Coates, a 22-year-old model from Florida was arrested for disorderly conduct and after her mugshot went viral, people took to social media. Once again, people lauded over her beauty and some offered to pay her bail. One guy said "I would sell off our family house for the bond money, leave my wife and kids homeless for Angela Coates." If that guy was married before, he isn't now.

This is no laughing matter though. We can't give criminals a free pass because they're attractive and we certainly can't idolize them and vouch for their release or offer to pay for their bail money. Do we want to teach our kids that appearance and attractiveness are the most important things in the world and as long as you're good-looking, people will adore you and vouch to get you out of jail?

I blame social media, media outlets and society's ignorance for celebrating, idolizing and supporting these menaces to society. These so called "hot felons" aren't laughing. They're tainting their personal records and Meeks and Beaudoin, both of which committed felonies, are facing prison time. These criminals are the class clowns that make the class laugh, but have to stay after school for detention while the other kids go about their lives. People will eventually forget these criminals, but for now, they'll enjoy their 15 minutes of fame.

Jameis Winston: A true Heisman winner?

BY DIAMOND HOLTON
Staff Writer

With 4,057 passing yards, 40 passing touchdowns and four rushing touchdowns, he led his team to an undefeated 14-0 record in 2013, winning the ACC Championship and the BCS National Championship.

Let me present the 2013 Heisman Memorial Trophy winner: Jameis Winston.

Let us all commend him and show huge amounts of praise on his remarkable efforts and talents. This is where you're supposed to clap and say he will soon be one of the greatest of all time.

But I refuse. As much as I love sports and reading about his stats on the field, some other stats stood out to me about him: his history of bad behavior off the field.

In July 2013, a Burger King employee called police to complain that Winston was stealing soda. In that same year Florida State Attorney's Office were opening an investigation into a sexual assault complaint involving Winston, of which he was not charged.

On April 29, 2014 he was issued an adult civil citation for shoplifting crab legs from a public store. And let us not forget Winston shouting an obscenity based off an Internet meme while standing on top of a table.

Yes everyone, that is your 2013 Heisman winner.

How can we praise a man . . . no, I'm sorry how can we praise a boy on his football skills when off the field he doesn't represent it?

Since when does winning a prestigious athletic award give you the right to act like a fool off the field?

It doesn't. Winning the Heisman isn't an everyday award that's just handed to anyone. You have to earn it, which I completely believe he did.

But I also understand you have to behave, as well. He is representing himself, his family and Florida State University. It's okay to be a winner on the field, but off the field you can do as you please with no regard for anyone. What message is he sending to the future Heisman winners?

As the face of his team, what is he signifying? What is Jameis Winston telling the younger generations?

Winston has to understand that the eyes that watch him play are not all adult eyes. In due time, he will be a National Football League prospect. I'm sure they're hesitant about drafting him especially with the baggage he now possesses.

No one will want to deal with someone who can't handle themselves accordingly. Super Bowl winning coach and National Broadcasting Company analyst, Tony Dungy told The Dan Patrick Show he wouldn't draft Jameis Winston.

"As of now, I wouldn't. I'd have to do a lot of research and go in and talk to him," he said. "But you don't want the face of your franchise and the guy you're going to take in the top-five picks to have all those off-field issues. You just don't."

If I could speak to Jameis Winston personally, this is what I would say to him:

What you do and how you act stays with you forever. You've earned all the awards you've received. Now earn some respect and dignity. Stop being selfish and remember it's not just you that you're representing anymore. You are the face of a school and a team. Act like it!

Party polarization



BY KOBI AZOULAY
Staff Writer

Have you ever met a person that just loves to argue?

They disagree just for the sake of disagreeing, they argue even when they know they're wrong. Even if you do not realize it, every single one of you knows a person like that. In fact, everyone in the United States does. That is because the two major political parties, Democrats and Republicans, can never seem to find themselves on the same page these days.

According to a Pew Research Poll, a nonpartisan fact tank, "Today, 92 percent of Republicans are to the right of the median (middle) Democrat, compared with 64 percent twenty years ago. And 94 percent of Democrats are to the left of the median Republican, up from 70 percent in 1994."

Those statistics should be alarming to everybody regardless of what political party you affiliate with. How can we as a country expect to make progress when our views and opinions are moving drastically in opposite directions? There's a simple answer to this question: we can't.

The House and Senate have passed 163 laws since the two-year term began in January 2013. This sets Congress up nicely for breaking the previous record from the 2011-2013 session where 284 laws were passed, which is still less than the record before that of 385 laws passed in the 2009-2011 session.

Notice how the number of laws passed has steadily decreased over the past three terms. In this day and age, when new issues seem to be appearing every single day, we should be making

progress. Instead, we find ourselves becoming less productive as the years go by.

This growing polarization in politics is moving our country in the wrong direction. Compromise is one of the most important parts of the political process. Parents preach about sharing and understanding others opinions, but obviously politicians must've forgotten about this important life lesson.

Lack of compromise is the biggest reason as to why we had a government shutdown last fall.

A reporter explained why the shutdown occurred in a CNN article last October saying, "House Republicans insist any new spending bill include provisions to defund, derail or otherwise chip away at Obamacare. Senate Democrats are just as insistent that it doesn't."

Sounds a little childish, right?

Why would lawmakers shut down the government just to change one specific law? Democrats and Republicans should've met somewhere in the middle and compromised. They should've kept The Affordable Care Act, famously referred to as Obamacare, while maybe making some revisions that Republicans wanted in order to make everyone happy.

This same script could find itself playing out this fall, but Obamacare wouldn't be the issue shutting down the government this time around.

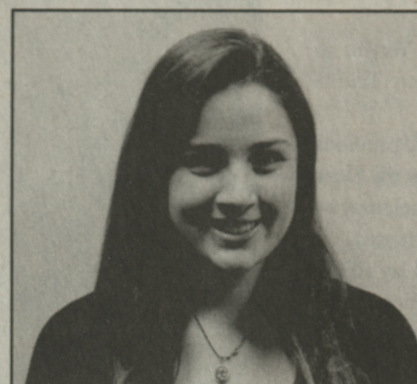
White House Press Secretary Josh Earnes said that President Barack Obama won't reconsider using executive action for immigration reform because some republicans are hinting at a government shutdown.

Now this is just downright silly. Why can't the Democrats compromise with the Republicans in order to pass immigration reform that both parties are content with? Why would the Republicans shut down the government, laying off government employees for a second year in a row? People expect their politicians to be leaders of our country, yet they refuse to compromise on important issues, and citizens are the ones that take the hit.

Politicians need to straighten up their act and do the job that they were elected to do. The people don't want another government shutdown. The People don't want a political Mexican standoff. Politicians were elected in order to help our country progress, and that can't happen until compromise is at the top of their agenda.

TUNED IN

Review of "Gotham" Premiere



BY BECKY MILLER
Staff Writer

The Batman franchise has been a series of dark films featuring demonic villains and an equally dark and brooding Bruce Wayne. Instead of focusing on the traditional timeline, Fox's new show "Gotham" explores the story from the very beginning.

It is well known comic book canon that Bruce Wayne's parents were killed in what was made to look like a brutal mugging, victims of a crime that was completely nonsensical. Bruce and his parents are seen walking in an alleyway to catch an uptown cab after a movie when the mugger approaches. The horrid act is committed and Bruce lets out a bloodcurdling scream, vehemently tearing on the heartstrings of viewers.

Bruce is found shivering on the stairs of a fire-escape (the same fire-escape a young Selena was hiding on at the time of the murder) when a much younger Com-

missioner Gordon enters the scene.

James Gordon (played by Ben McKenzie) is a brash new detective who likes to stick his metaphorical neck out where it is most likely to be chopped off. The only reason he is not dead by the end of the episode is sheer dumb luck. Gordon promises to Bruce he will find his parents' killer, something viewed as a rookie mistake in the unpredictable line of police work. If anything, Gordon's heart is large and he will do anything to help.

The cinematic set up frames the episode with appearances by Selena Kyle, the character most well known as Catwoman. The released title of the second episode ("Selena Kyle") implies that we will be seeing much more of this character relatively soon.

Other characters introduced include Alfred Pennyworth, Harvey Bullock, Poison Ivy, the Penguin, Riddler and Renee Montoya (also known as the Question).

This first episode has introduced several characters from the comics as well as adding an original character—Fish Mooney, played by Jada Pinkett Smith—and focusing more on Gotham as a city instead of solely on Bruce and his plight.

The current path is promising but the constant failures of previous on screen adaptations to capture the true life of Gotham leaves most fans restraining judgment until more is seen.

Nevertheless, the Flyer remains cautiously optimistic and gives the "Gotham" premiere an 8/10.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor:

Saturday, September 20th was a Day to Serve event at Hazel Outdoor Discovery Center. Thanks to the men's basketball team and their coach Joshua Merkel and the women's softball and their coach Marge Knight who participated that day. These athletes along with an American Corps member cleared trail E, a new trail at the Center. They did a great job and made a difference in this community.

This event was one of a series of events funded by September 11 Day of Service and Remembrance and Day to Serve grant that I received. On September 11th, the Hazel Outdoor Discovery

Center project began in the afternoon. Local high school students built benches and cleared another trail. Earlier that day we rededicated a memorial garden at Wicomico High School that students and faculty expanded. The grant allowed everyone to learn and practice environmental stewardship. I appreciate the support of the community and the Foundation in Human Potential which made these activities possible.

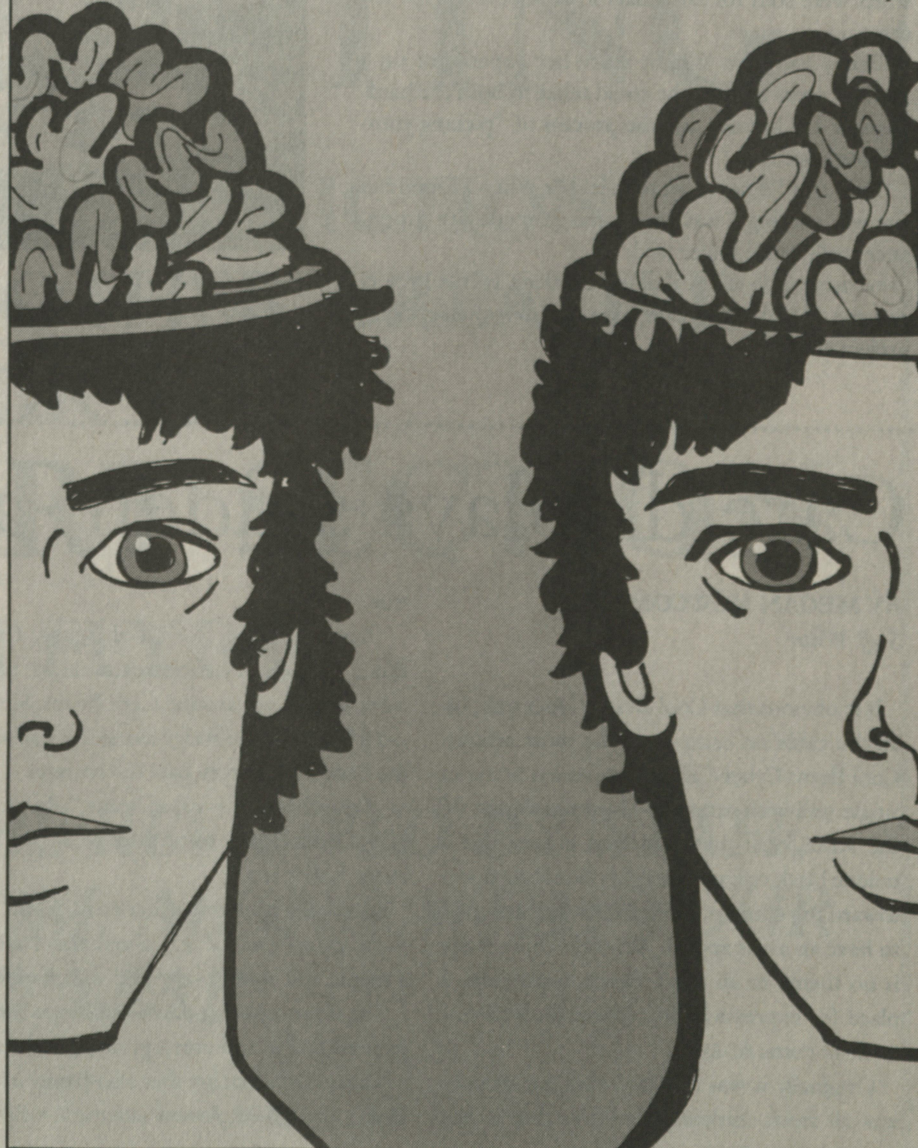
Sincerely,
George Whitehead, Ph.D.
Professor of Psychology and Project Director, Shore Corps/PALS



LET US KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING...

Send:
freelance articles
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letters to the editor
story ideas
to: suflyerblog@gmail.com

Include your full name and year. All articles and editorials are due the Thursday before publication, on Tuesday.



Fifty Shades of Gay

BY BRIA BAYLOR
Staff Writer

A group of 37 eager Salisbury students gathered in Red Square to join the #WeAreYou campaign on Tuesday afternoon with a "50 Shades of Gay" photo shoot.

Io Tillet Wright, photographer of the #WeAreYou Campaign, took candid black and white headshots of Salisbury students who identified themselves as anything other than 100 percent heterosexual.

Sea Gulls volunteered to join forces with Wright to support her campaign and the Self Evident Truths Project.

The photographed faces will join over 8,200 previous captured faces from 73 U.S. cities. Collectively, the faces of non-heterosexuals eventually will make their way to the National Mall in Washington D.C., Wright said.

When she reaches 10,000 pictures, she will lay all the pictures out to cover the mall to give recognition to the many "not straight" faces she has collected over the years. Why, she asks, because they matter.

"I'm super glad she came," Kiani Bailey, a member of LGBTQ said. She looks forward to being on the National mall.

Wright started taking the photos by chance. When she was hanging out one night, she stretched out her hand and took "random" candid shots of her friends.

"I found myself in these photos," Wright said. "They were kinda boyish, kinda girlish. They weren't in the boundaries of what people said boys and girls should be."

That night, she started to discover her own self. "Never in my mind had I thought I would be gay. I wasn't a sexual kid. The first person that turned me on was Patrick Swayze from Dirty Dancing," Wright said.

During her lecture, she candidly shared her own journey in the lecture that followed the campaign's photo shoot on Tuesday night.

Wright grew up in downtown New York City, surrounded by family and friends who were heavily involved with alcohol, recreational drugs and other stereotypically frowned upon activities.

"Everyone reinvented themselves to be whoever they wanted to be," Wright said.

At 6, she decided she wanted to be a boy. Until age 14, she lived as just that: a little boy.

"I was a girl playing a boy, playing a boy," Wright said. By her early 20s, she was living as a sporty girl.

"I would ride on nothing but a skateboard in a bikini and a miniskirt. I was really confused," she said.

When Wright first began the #WeAreYou Campaign, she had just wanted to capture the faces of people who were not completely "straight".

She travelled the U.S. photographing willing volunteers. She began to hear their stories and see how they were accepted in their towns, schools, and families. Sometimes, she was heartbroken. Many were completely rejected and out casted.

When the initial Prop 8. Case broke out in California banning same sex marriage, Wright realized that the issue of gay marriage and rights was abominable. It was worse than she thought. She had no political background or activism knowledge but she knew had to do something.

"It's not about what I can give to you, it's about what you can give me," Wright said.

The project has adopted the quote "familiarity is the gateway drug to empathy."

Capturing these photos of non-heterosexuals of all different ethnicities, ages and backgrounds, literally put a face to the titles many people are using as labels. These photographs are used to remind everyone that they are people too.

The LGBTQ and others alike were equally pleased with the 50 Shades of Gay experience on Tuesday. Many agreed to support the movement. #WeAreYou t-shirts were sold for 20 dollars to raise revenue for the campaign.

Bailey had seen Wright share her experience on a TedTalk years before. She could relate to both the hardships of the journey and the process of "picking yourself back up."

"I thought I'd never get to meet her, when I found out she was coming I was so excited. It made the experience really real," Bailey said.

For more info about the Self Evident Truths Project and the #WeAreYou campaign visit www.selfevidentproject.com.



Darby Dick's photos
(Above) Wright brought her #WeAreYou campaign to Salisbury and spoke to students Tuesday night about identifying as a not completely straight.

Cafe displays student and staff artwork

BY MEGAN NEWCOMER
Staff Writer

It is obvious that Cool Beans Cyber café, of all the cafés on campus, is the most artistic. Cool Beans Cyber Café is surrounded on every single wall with artwork. Even the design of the store itself has saturated colors and a unique black ceiling with lights that hang down toward the counter. Cool Beans was designed to have an artist appeal. Although there really is no theme to all this artwork, it provides a place for expression. But where does all this artwork come from?

Originally it was assumed that the artwork was all from students. However that is not

true.

Retail Manager for Cool Beans, Crystal Ruark, said that she creates most of the art work that we see around Cool Beans. Her artwork hangs by the fridge along the wall and in the back of the store past the counter.

"I do different stuff at home," Ruark said. "Cool Beans is just some place to display it not in the basement."

Ruark puts up some of her most recent work at the cafe. None of it is necessarily based on a theme and about every year she changes it.

The doors coming into Cool Beans are also painted by her and correspond to the season.

There is student art that also hangs in Cool Beans, though employees said the Art Depart-

ment at Salisbury University is more involved with that art. About every semester, the work changes and someone else displays their work.

This semester's work is by, Megan Burak whose work hangs above the couch across from the counter. Although her artwork does not contain an obvious theme, the colors somehow flow with the walls of Cool Beans.

Despite creating the atmosphere for Cool Bean by hanging the artwork it allows the artists to get exposure. Cool Beans is a perfect place to display artwork because the people who come in are varied.

Rather than just displaying work at an art gallery, they are getting seen by business majors, English majors, communication arts ma-

jors, nursing majors and about every single other major that comes into Cool Beans.

Even though these people are not art majors does not mean that their opinion does not matter. A working artist is creating for his or her audience. The artist wants to make money off of his or her artwork. Therefore, the artist wants as much exposure as he or she can get and with a variety of people.

The problem with displaying artwork at an art gallery is that most other artists are coming to look at the art gallery. If artwork is displayed in a neutral place, like Cool Beans Cyber Café, then the people who can't create their own artwork get exposed to it—and hopefully want to buy it.

Reggae Soul Cafe: Bringing Jamaica to Salisbury

BY JESSICA GOODELL
Staff Writer
@JessicaGoodell

Reggae Soul Café, a new Jamaican-themed restaurant, opened about a month ago on South Salisbury Boulevard just past the temporary Spirit Halloween store.

It is set up like Chipotle where all of the food is laid out for you to look at and pick different combinations. Reggae music was playing in the background and there were tables set around so you have the option to eat in, or take your meal to go.

My roommate, Emily Lewis, and I went to go try it out.

We walked in and an employee immediately greeted us and asked if we had been there before. After we told him that we had not he gave us a menu with more detailed descriptions of the different foods.

The chefs take pride in preparing the food and make it as authentically Jamaican as possible. An employee gave us suggestions and he told us that we could sample all the different options.

I tried the brown stew chicken and curry chicken entrée options. The brown stew was similar to pepper chicken, slightly spicy but very good. The curry chicken did not have as strong of a flavor but was also good.

My roommate, Emily Lewis, tried all of the entrée

options including curry goat and oxtail.

"The oxtail really just tasted like chicken," she said. "I wasn't a fan of the goat, it was kind of chewy and more fatty."

We also tried the fried plantains, which were delicious; they tasted like sweet fried bananas. Another side item we sampled were the festivals, which looked like long hush puppies with a bit of a cornbread taste, almost like a dessert.

After trying almost all of the foods I went with an entrée box that comes with your choice of entrée and two sides. I got brown stew chicken with white rice, festivals, and plantains. In all we paid less than 30 dollars for the two of us.

As we were paying for our food an employee suggested that we try the sorrel, a dark red drink that was similar to sangria. It was sweet with a slight ginger taste.

"This is a Jamaican Christmas drink," he said. "The way we drink eggnog, they drink sorrel."

They have several other authentic Jamaican drinks that are available, like the sorrel, which are homemade, as well as other bottled drinks that include Jamaican sodas and coconut water.

Overall I was very impressed with Reggae Soul Café. It had great service, incredible food, and I would definitely suggest that you check it out if you want to try something different.



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Student Health

*The Dirty Dozen:
What to buy organic*

BY MEGAN MAHEDY
Staff Writer

Due to the majority of upperclassmen students now living off campus, this may mean more food shopping, cooking, and possibly a lesser meal plan. Faced with independence you may be bombarded with decisions that you've never faced before, such as to buy organic or not to buy organic.

There are some fruits and vegetables that are deemed to be the dirtiest and the worst offenders of pesticide use. Pesticides are known to kill bugs and pests and studies performed by the National Cancer Institute have shown that ingesting high levels of toxic pesticides can aid in the development of chronic diseases, such as cancer.

The Environmental Working Group (EWG) analyzed pesticide residue testing data from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Food and Drug Administration to come up with rankings for these popular fresh produce items.

According to the EWG, these 12 fruits and vegetables use the highest levels of pesticide: apples, strawberries, grapes, celery, peaches, spinach, sweet bell peppers, nectarines (imported), cucumbers, cherry tomatoes, snap peas and potatoes.

When shopping at the grocery market choosing these options organically may be a healthier alternative.

According to studies by the American Chemical Institute, antioxidant levels in organically grown strawberries were about 19 percent higher than they were in conventionally grown strawberries.

Also, every sample of non-organic, imported nectarines and 99 percent of apple samples tested positive for at least one pesticide residue. And, even more shocking, the average potato had more pesticides by weight than any other food.

Lastly, a single grape sample contained 15 pesticides and single samples of celery, cherry tomatoes, imported snap peas and strawberries showed 13 different pesticides apiece.

With that being said, as it is common in the average life of a college student to pinch every penny, it is not entirely necessary to buy all foods organic due to the higher costs. According to the EWG, the "Clean 15" consists of popular produce that are safe to be purchased in non-organic form. This list consists of popular favorites including: avocados, sweet corn, pineapples, cabbage, sweet peas (frozen), onions, asparagus, mangoes, papayas, kiwi, eggplant, grapefruit, cantaloupe (domestic), cauliflower and sweet potatoes.

Now, we all comprehend the importance of fruits and vegetables in the human diet, so remember to fill your cart with fresh fruits and vegetables to get the maximum potential of nutrients out of your diet. Next time you go to your local supermarket, check out the popular "Clean 15" and the organic options from the "Dirty Dozen" and shop clean!

Men finish fourth at Don Cathcart Invitational; women finish eleventh

BY MICHAEL FINLEY
Staff Writer

It was an eventful day for Salisbury University's men and women's cross country teams at the Don Cathcart Invitational on Saturday at Winter Place Park in Salisbury; the men finished fourth overall in their race while the women's team finished 11th at their final home meet of the season.

After starting the year off with a third and a second place finish at their first two meets, the men's team continued their run for a championship. Although none of the men placed inside of the top 10, two finished inside of the top 20 and four finished inside of the top 30, with senior George Martinez leading the Sea Gulls with a time of 25:55.9, finishing 15th.

Martinez was the only Sea Gull to finish under 26 minutes on Saturday, while junior Thomas Burke followed behind him in 19th with a time of 26:00.8. Senior Brandon Horning's 26:08.8 was good enough for 22nd.

Slippery Rock finished first in the event, while Salisbury was just three points away from their third top-three finish

this year, edged out by Christopher Newport.

"I was pleased with how our men ran, we're looking good for the conference championship," Sea Gulls Head Coach Jim Jones said. "We were right there with Christopher Newport, our conference rivals, in points today."

While the men finished well enough to keep their confer-

"I was pleased with how our men ran, we're looking good for the conference championship."

- Head Coach Jim Jones

ence championship hopes alive, the women's team had a rough time, finishing 11th.

The women's team is young and still learning; their team of 10 is comprised of eight new runners and two returners, including senior Olivia Cloud, from last season. But aside from Saturday's race, the women's team has fared well, notching

two top five finishes at the Salisbury Fall Classic and the University of Delaware Invitational.

Cloud was not surprised about Saturday's finish, or how they fared in earlier races.

"They were strong runners in high school and coach is always looking for strong runners," she said. "They've adjusted well, I'm not surprised but I am proud."

Cloud placed the highest among the lady Sea Gulls finishing with a 24:01.7, good enough for 49th, improving on her time in this meet a year ago by ten seconds. Freshman Jessica Lane finished next in 75th with a time of 24:40.4.

Still, Coach Jones was able to take some positives away from the women's race.

"We did have some improvements and we did take a step forward," Jones said. "It's just that sometimes you don't take as big a step as you expected or wanted."

The next cross country meet will be on Saturday, October 4th, as Salisbury heads to Bethlehem Pennsylvania for the Lehigh Paul Short Run. The men will look to continue their strong run while the women look to rebound.

Women's soccer tops Southern Virginia in first CAC game

BY RICKY POLLITT
Staff Writer

The Salisbury University women's soccer team has faced some tough opponents early in the schedule and before conference play even began this week; they had a 3-3-3 record and sat in fourth place in the Capital Athletic Conference standings.

With ten games officially in the books, the Sea Gulls started preparing to face opponents in the CAC earlier this week. The preparation paid off, and they won their first conference game on Saturday against Southern Virginia, winning 2-1 in extra time thanks to a goal from Victoria Luc in the 102nd minute.

Salisbury led the majority of the game, thanks to a first half goal scored by junior Logan O'Meara, but Southern Virginia struck back in the second half, tying the game up with a shot to the right of goal, past Sea Gulls' senior goalkeeper Michelle Conrad.

At the end of regulation the game was tied at one, and for the fifth time this year, the Sea Gulls headed into extra time.

In the first four games that went to extras, Salisbury was 0-0-3 before beating Stevenson 3-2 in extra time earlier last week.

In the first minute of this overtime, Luc received a ball from Jackie Lambergerman, found a lane, got past a defender and put the ball in the back of the net, giving Salisbury the victory.

The win gave the Sea Gulls a winning record at 4-3-3, and pre-

vented them from being in the bottom half of their conference standings.

When looking at Salisbury's prior matchups, it's easy to see why the team struggled in some of their games. Out of the first

"We have played some of the best teams in our region to start the season. Each of the previous games we learned something about ourselves; we are resilient."

- Head Coach Kwame Lloyd

ten games, seven have been played on the road, a brutal start for any team.

Many of the Sea Gull's opponents have also been ranked in the NCAA Division III top 25, including Messiah who is currently ranked second in the country. Needless to say, Salisbury has had to earn the wins that have come their way.

"We have played some of the best teams in our region to start the season," Head Coach Kwame Lloyd said. "Each of the previous games we learned something about ourselves; we are resilient."

With only eight games remaining in the regular season, and all

of them being against conference opponents, and Lloyd will need to make sure his team continues to be resilient if they want a shot at making the CAC tournament.

"Every game is going to be a mental challenge," Lloyd said. "Each team in our conference has the opportunity to contend for and win our tournament."

As of Saturday, three teams are ranked higher than the Sea Gulls; Frostburg State (1), Mary Washington (2), and Christopher Newport (3). Salisbury has the advantage of playing all three opponents at home this year.

For the Sea Gulls, both sides of the ball will have to get better as Salisbury gets deeper into their schedule. The offense has only scored 13 goals this season, while only averaging 1.3 goals a game. The defense and goalkeeping has been the strong points for the team, with Conrad racking up 40 saves and only allowing 14 goals.

All of their remaining games are conference matchups, making every win or loss that much more important. Now 1-0 in the conference, the Sea Gulls are on the right path to returning to the CAC Tournament.

"It is going to come down to preparation, execution, health, and team chemistry," Lloyd said. "My staff and I will work diligently to make sure we represent Salisbury and its expectations to come in (conference play)."

Salisbury Sharks top UMBC in home opener

BRANDON WOODROFFE
Staff Writer

The Salisbury Sharks men's club rugby team won their first conference game of the season over the University of Maryland Baltimore County this past Saturday at home.

It was a close game throughout the first half but the Sharks (2-0) were able to widen the margin thanks to some late tries and ended the game on top with a 29-17 win. Sharks' Captain John Capobianco felt good about how the game went for his guys.

"It was a good, solid win for us," Capobianco said. "It felt good being out there and I think there were some great things going on and some we can always tune up."

Captain Scott Wheeler had a productive afternoon, scoring three tries for the Sharks, including one early in the second half that broke up the game and gave the Sharks a lead.

"It was a good mix of forwards and backs," Capobianco said. "Scotty is really good at breaking the line and hitting them with pace, which opened up a lot of holes for us to score."

The game became a little more intense throughout the second half with a little more pushing and showing, and even a little bit of a scuffle broke out between a few players.

"They're a really big, physical team," Wheeler said. "[Problems] are going to happen sometimes."

"We don't want to see it, but that's what happens; it's the nature of the game."

The injury bug took its toll on one of the Sharks' key players, Pat Mullens, who left the game early in the first half with an ankle injury and did not return.

"It was a big loss for us to lose that guy," Wheeler said. "But we had to move on, we always say 'next man up' and we used our substitutes to our advantage and it worked well for us."

The Sharks take to the field again on Sept. 27 on the road against the Georgetown University Hoyas. The match-up is personal for a few of the players, as the Hoyas handed the Sharks their first loss of the spring last season, losing 8-9.

The Sharks will return home on Oct. 11 after a two-game road trip to take on Towson.



Jenna Brown photo
above: Salisbury battles with UMBC, keeping possession alive with a pitch
right: The Sharks prepare to catch the throw in



Women's soccer falls in home opener

DIAMOND HOLTON
Staff Writer

The weather on Saturday added to the gloomy day in Salisbury for the women's soccer team as they fell to No. 3 Messiah College 3-0 at the Salisbury University Soccer Complex.

The Sea Gulls (1-3-2) fought hard against Messiah early on in the first half, but trailed 1-0 at the end. There were multiple scoring attacks and chances for Salisbury, perhaps the best one coming in the 15th minute when sophomore midfielder Jenny Gavigan blasted a ball towards the Messiah goal to only see it sailing over the crossbar.

Junior forward Victoria Luc had a chance minutes later, but her shot attempt was blocked by Messiah's keeper, Audra Larson. It would stand as the Sea Gull's only shot on-target the whole game.

Fellow juniors Logan O'Meara and Heather Deamond, along with freshman midfielder Ruthie Lucas, each had their chance at scoring as well but were unsuccessful.

Salisbury totaled seven shots in the game, while Messiah on the other end racked up 12 shots with nine of them landing on target; three of them getting

past Sea Gulls' senior goalkeeper Michelle Conrad for goals.

Conrad played all 90 minutes of the contest, grabbing six saves and getting some help from her defenders, including junior back Tabitha Brown. Conrad believed Salisbury wasn't aggressive enough on the offensive end and wanted to see more shots from the Sea Gulls.

"From practice, we incorporated our flank players down line and sending long diagonal ball passes across the field," Conrad said. "We just need to take advantage in our scoring opportunities; I felt we gave the ball off too much."

While the Sea Gulls ended last season with a 10-6-4 record and made it to the CAC semifinals, this season is starting off slow with a 1-3-2 record. Head Coach Kwame Lloyd is in his second season and sees this team being just as anxious as last year's squad, despite the numbers on paper.

"We're off to a tough start, but we're hungry," Lloyd said. "We're going to go after each team and play well. It's going to be a good year."

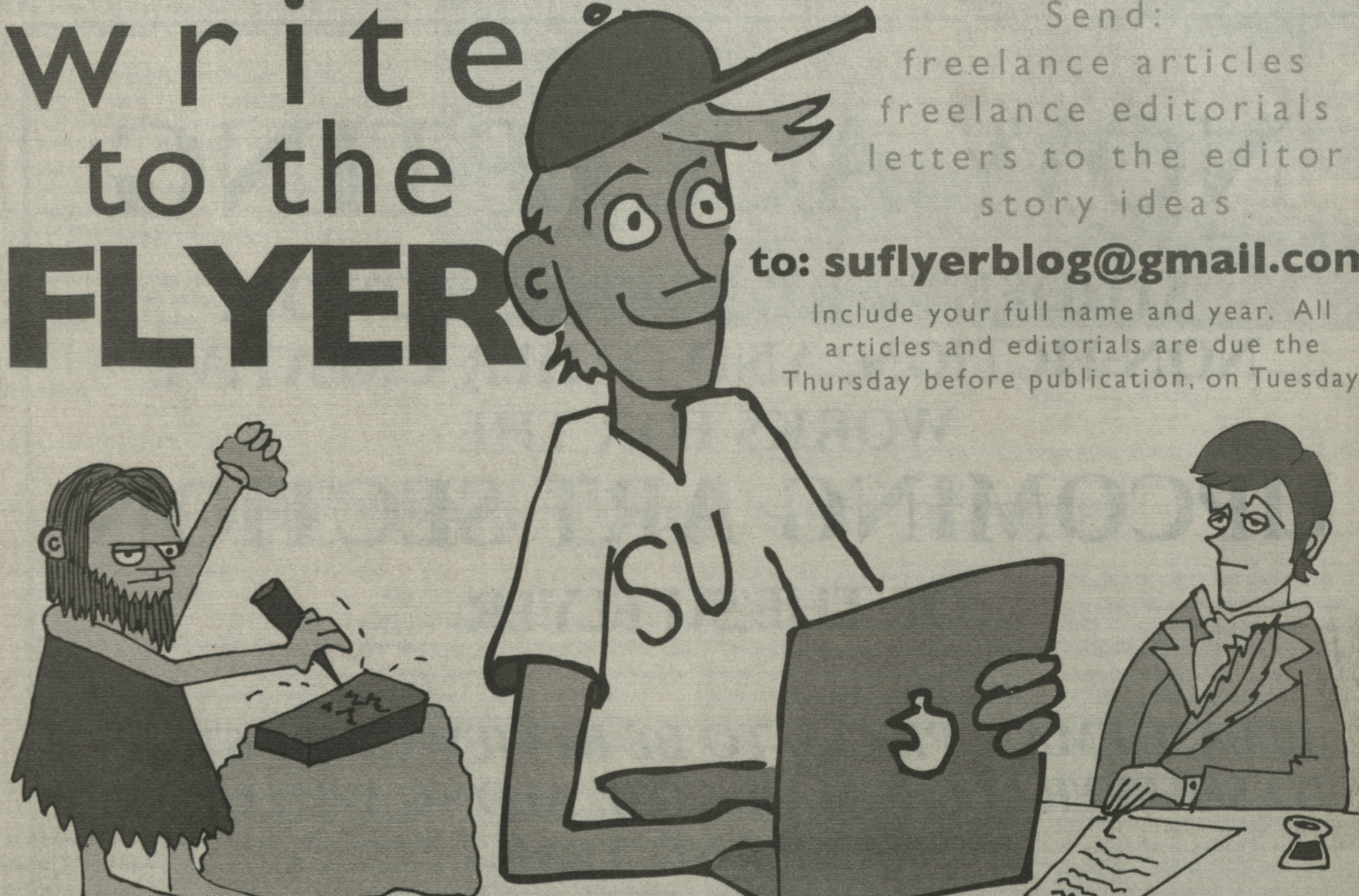
The Sea Gulls will look to rebound from the loss today when they travel south to take on Virginia Wesleyan College at 7 p.m.



Jenna Brown photo
above: Junior Forward Jenna DeLotto prepares for a throw-in
right: Freshman midfielder Ruthie Lucas looks ahead for an open shot



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